ACT VI : CIRCUS * NAKAMACHI CIRCUS
FIRST CHAPTER

NAKAMA
CIRCUS
Bring your pets
3 pm in the big public park
WHAT A SHAME! THIS FLYER'S HANDMADE AND PHOTO-COPIED...
THEY'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
THIS IS THE PLACE ...
TAN
WE MUST MAKE SHIROGANE COME BACK WITH US AT ANY COST!!
But... that hurt!!
NAOTA, YOU'RE SO STUPID! WE DIDN'T COME HERE JUST TO WATCH THE NAKAMACHIS!
BUT, DAD! WE DIDN'T NEED TO COME HERE TO KNOW THEY WERE GOING TO DO A LAME SHOW!
SP
AAF

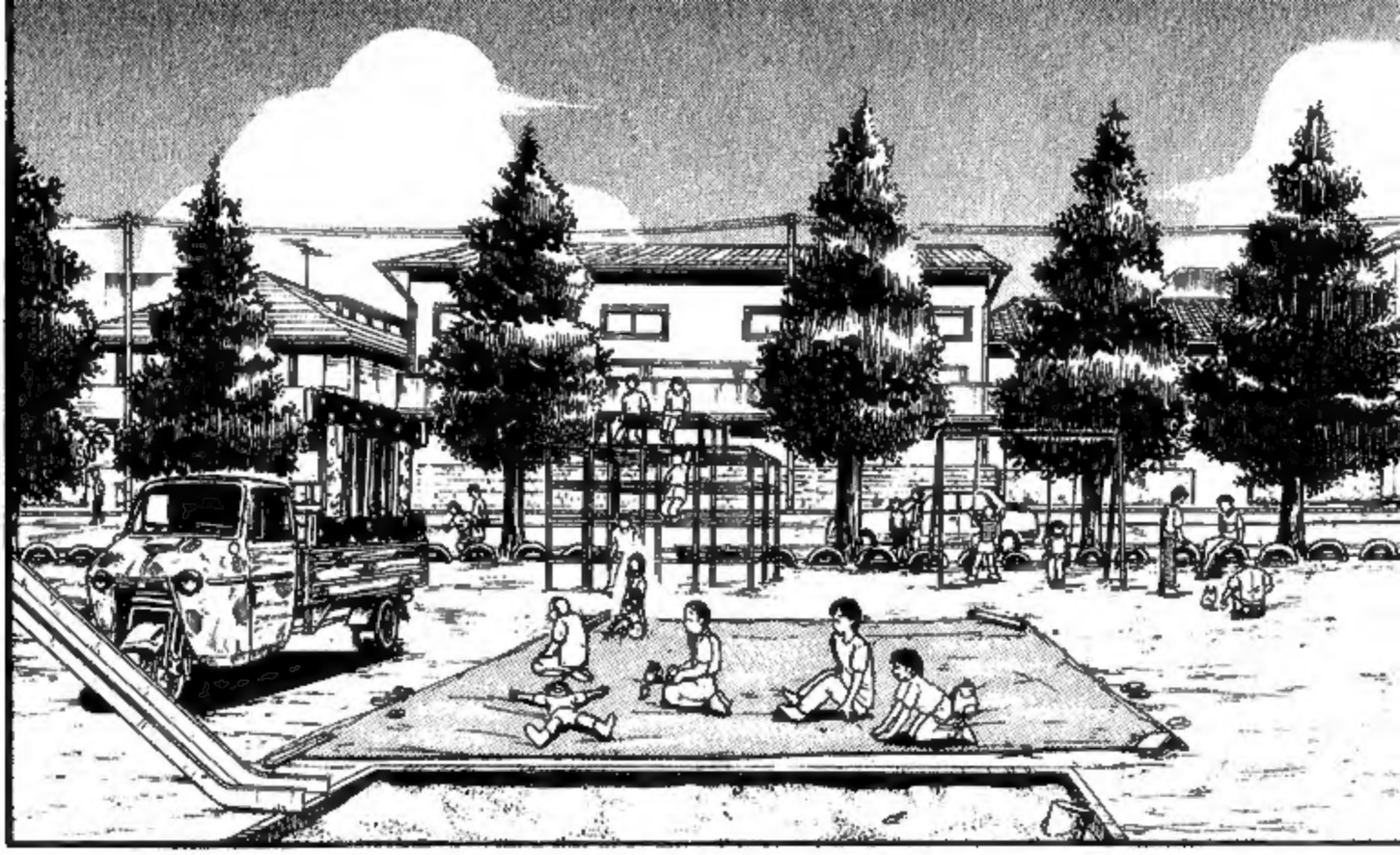
YOU SAW IT YOURSELF WHEN YOU PERFORMED WITH HER THE OTHER DAY...
SHIROGANE'S EVEN MORE WONDERFUL THAN WHEN SHE USED TO BE IN OUR CIRCUS!
THAT'S TRUE... ALL THE SPECTATORS WERE AMAZED!

AND YOU SAW HOW DISAPPOINTED THEY WERE WHEN THEY LEARNED SHE WOULDN'T BE PERFORMING IN OUR CIRCUS ANYMORE!
CONCLUSION: SHIROGANE HAS AN AMAZING POTENTIAL TO GATHER PEOPLE IN A CIRCUS!

LISTEN... IF THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS FAILS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET SHIROGANE BACK!
HI HI
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THEY SUCCEED, WE'LL END UP IN HELL!

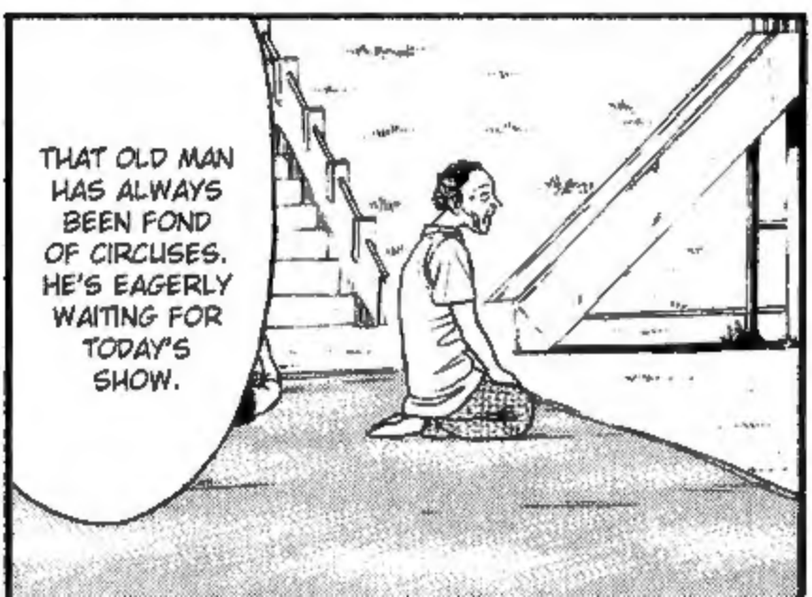
YOU'RE RIGHT, AND ON TOP OF THAT, THE STRAW CIRCUS IS GOING BANKRUPT.
NAOTA! YOU'RE SAYING THAT AS IF IT DIDN'T CONCERN YOU! ALTHOUGH YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S WASTING ALL OUR MONEY AT THE CASINO!
BUT, DAD! YOU'RE SPENDING AT LEAST AS MUCH AS I DO TO GO SEE YOUR GIRLS!
SHHH!

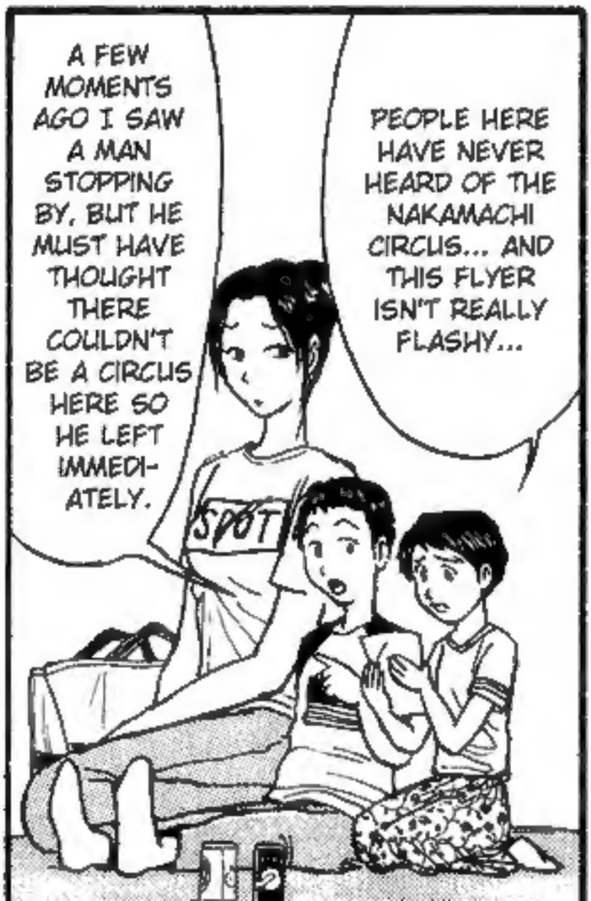
WITH SHIROGANE, WE'LL MAKE SO MUCH MONEY!
AND YOU'LL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO MARRY HER!
HE HE!!... THAT WOULD BE LIKE HEAVEN!!
ZOH ZOH
ZOH



IT DOESN'T LOOK VERY CROWDED...

LOOK BOYS... THERE'S AN OLD MAN OVER THERE...


THAT OLD MAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN FOND OF CIRCUSES. HE'S EAGERLY WAITING FOR TODAY'S SHOW.


A FEW MOMENTS AGO I SAW A MAN STOPPING BY, BUT HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT THERE COULDN'T BE A CIRCUS HERE SO HE LEFT IMMEDI-ATELY.
PEOPLE HERE HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS... AND THIS FLYER ISN'T REALLY FLASHY...
SPOT

WAITING FOR THE CIRCUS...
HE'S JUST LIKE US

YEAH, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT...
WILL AN OLD MAN LIKE HIM BE OK WITH A CHEAP SHOW? HE MUST HAVE SEEN QUITE A LOT OF THEM.
I HEARD MASARU SAYING THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS HADN'T GOT MUCH MONEY...

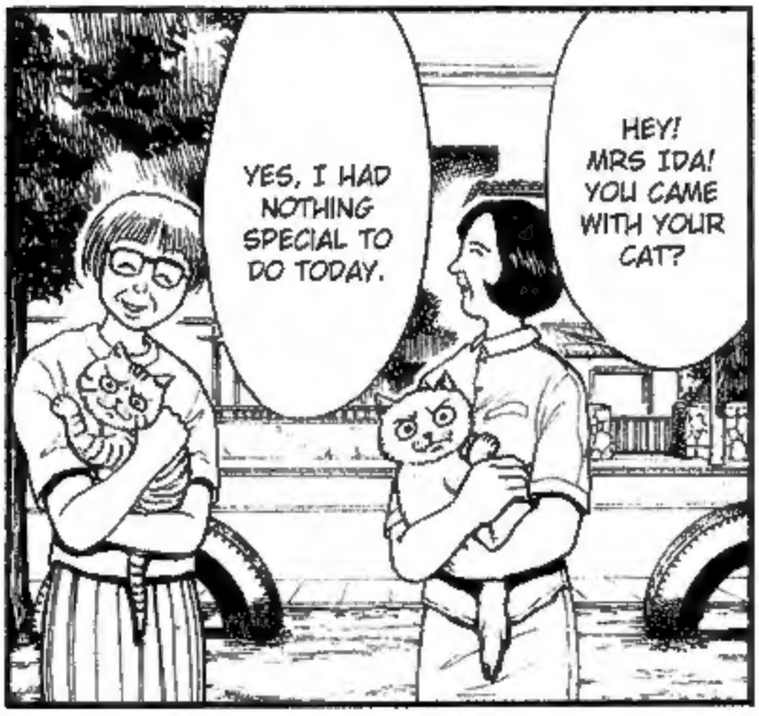
OUAF

I'M TIRED OF WAITING. LET'S GO KARAOKE.
THIS MUST BE SOMETHING FOR KIDS. THEY'LL JUST TELL A STORY.
IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE TO PERFORM SOMETHING WITH NO INFRASTRUCTURE LIKE THIS??!?

YEAH. LET'S GO TO YOUR HOUSE.
HOW BORING! NOTHING'S HAPPENING!

I HAD TO TAKE HIM OUT FOR A WALK!
HEY, WHY DID YOU BRING YOUR MAD DOG WITH YOU?!
STOP IT JACK! I'M SICK OF YOU BARKING AT EVERYBODY LIKE THIS!!
AH!
SPOT
OUAF
OUAF

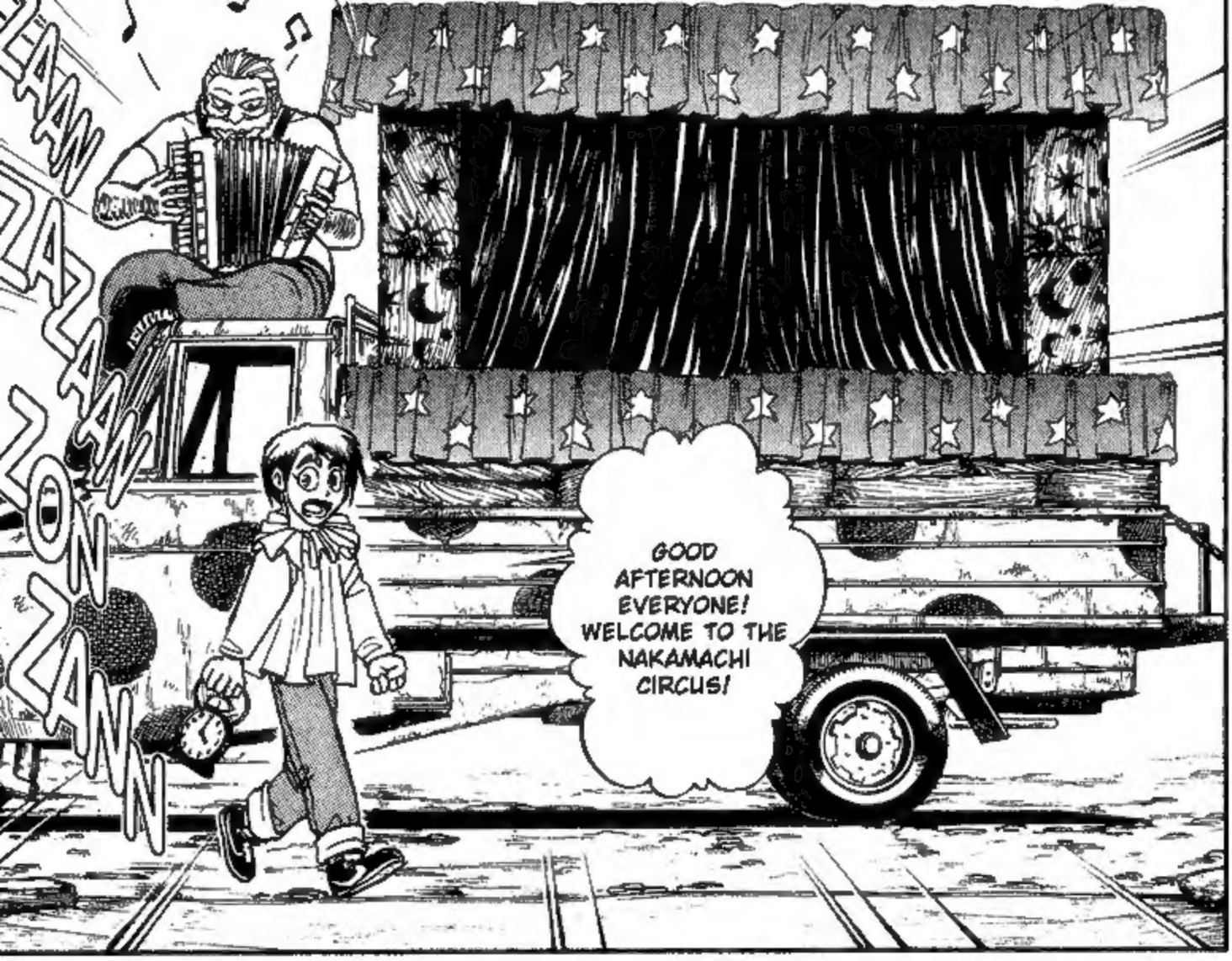
REALLY?... "BRING YOUR PETS!"
DID YOU SEE? THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE WRITTEN ON THE FLYER..
WHY WOULD THEY WRITE THAT?


YES, I HAD NOTHING SPECIAL TO DO TODAY.
HEY! MRS IDA! YOU CAME WITH YOUR CAT?

AND THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE SEATS FOR THE AUDIENCE.
HA HA HA! SO LAME!
IT'S A MERE ALARM CLOCK RINGING! THIS IS HOW THEY'RE STARTING THEIR SHOW?!

I HOPE, FOR YOUR SAKE, THAT THEY FORGET!
I TOLD SEVERAL FRIENDS TO COME SAYING IT'D BE COOL...
FHHHH

WHAT A GONG!
DIINNLNG
HO!.. IT'S STARTING!
SPOT


LAAN LAAN LAAN LAAN
GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE! WELCOME TO THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS!

...AND TRY TO STAY UNTIL THE END OF THE SHOW!
PLEASE FORGIVE US FOR THIS SETBACK AND OUR CLUMSINESS...
FOR NOW, WE DON'T HAVE A MARQUEE FOR OUR CIRCUS.

TODAY, I SHALL BE PRESENTING A PECULIAR SHOW.
MY NAME'S MASARU!

BE BRAVE, MASARU!

HERE! YOU TOLD ME YOU KNEW HOW TO...
...USE IT
ARE YOU SURE...
THIS IS GONNA BE ALRIGHT?!

LISTEN MASARU... DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S POSSIBLE TO SET UP A SHOW THAT EASILY?

AN ACCORDION?! WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
SHIROGANE FOUND IT.
THAT'LL MAKE US SOME MUSIC FOR THE SHOW.

ANYWAY, I DON'T THINK WE HAVE MUCH CHOICE.

OF COURSE!
YOU SAID IT WORKED FOR THE STREET ARTISTS... AND YOU SAW WHAT SHIROGANE'S CAPABLE OF!

MASARU... I'M PRETTY WORRIED!
MASARU'S RIGHT. WE DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER OPTION...
LOOK AT ME: FOLLOWING THE ADVICE OF A BOY WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE CIRCUS!

DAMN! THAT JERK MITSU'USHI AND HIS SON ARE HERE!

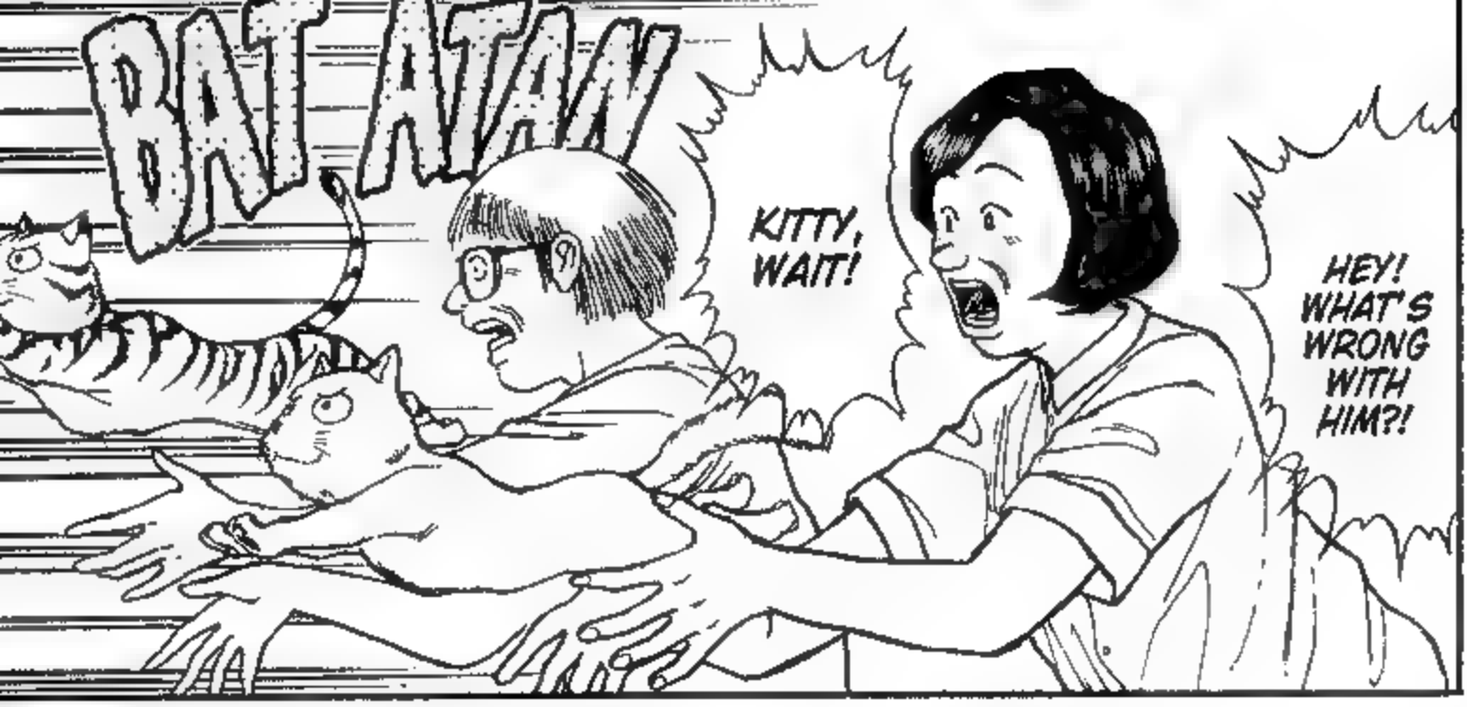
DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE...
...WE HAVE ANY CHANCE TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

YOU CAN DO IT, MASARU!
CLAP CLAP

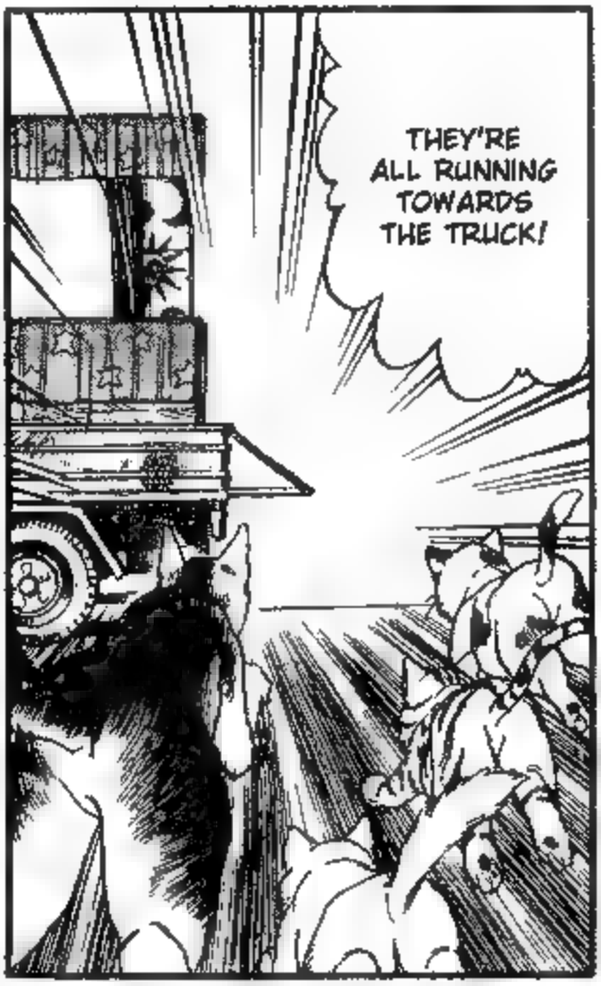
...WILL NOW BEGIN!
THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS SHOW...
Hello Everyone

...THERE WAS A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS, WHO LIVED IN A KINGDOM FAR AWAY.
ONCE UPON A TIME...
RLOMM

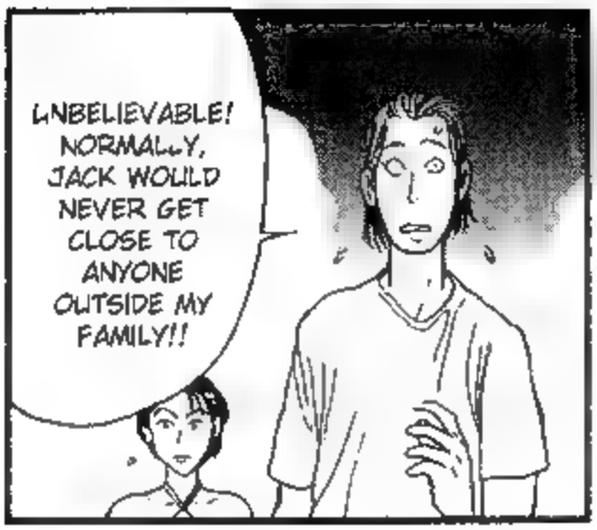
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CIRCUS!
HAVE YOU SEEN THE PUPPETS?! THEY'RE LIKE THE ONES YOU CAN WIN AT THE FUNFAIR!
AND THE BACK-GROUND'S MADE OF PAPER!
THIS IS SHIRO-GANE'S VOICE!
HEHEHE!
I WAS WON-DERING WHAT THEY WERE GONNA DO!
THIS IS A SIMPLE PUPPET SHOW FOR KIDS!
SOMETIMES, SHE WOULD COME OUT OF THE CASTLE...
THE PRINCESS WAS VERY KIND.
SO... ARE WE GETTING OUTTA HERE OR WHAT?
HEY! COME BACK HERE JACK!
OUF
OUF
...TO PLAY WITH THE CATS AND DOGS OF THE CITY.
WOOF
COME BACK!

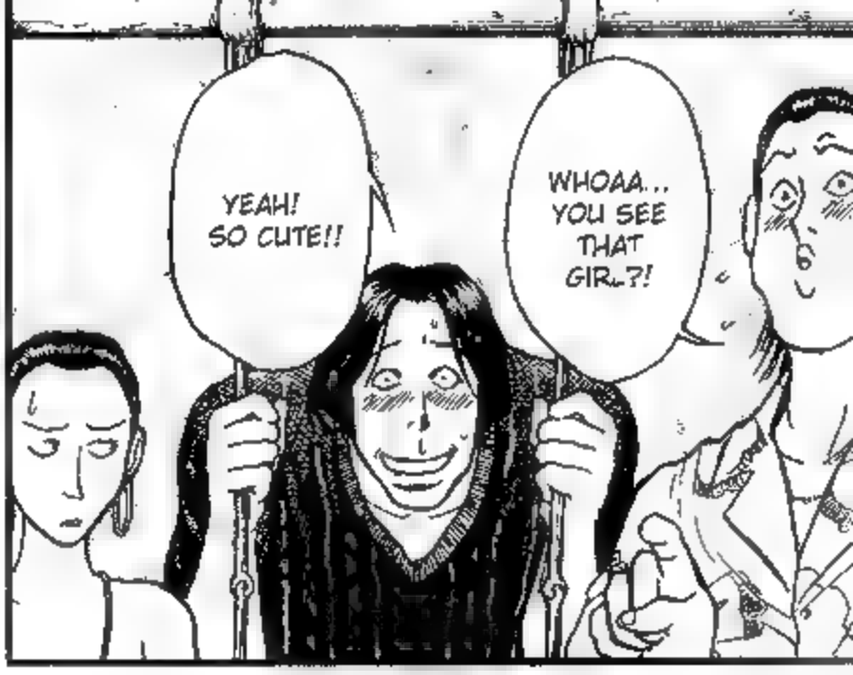

BAT ATAN
KITTY, WAIT!
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?!

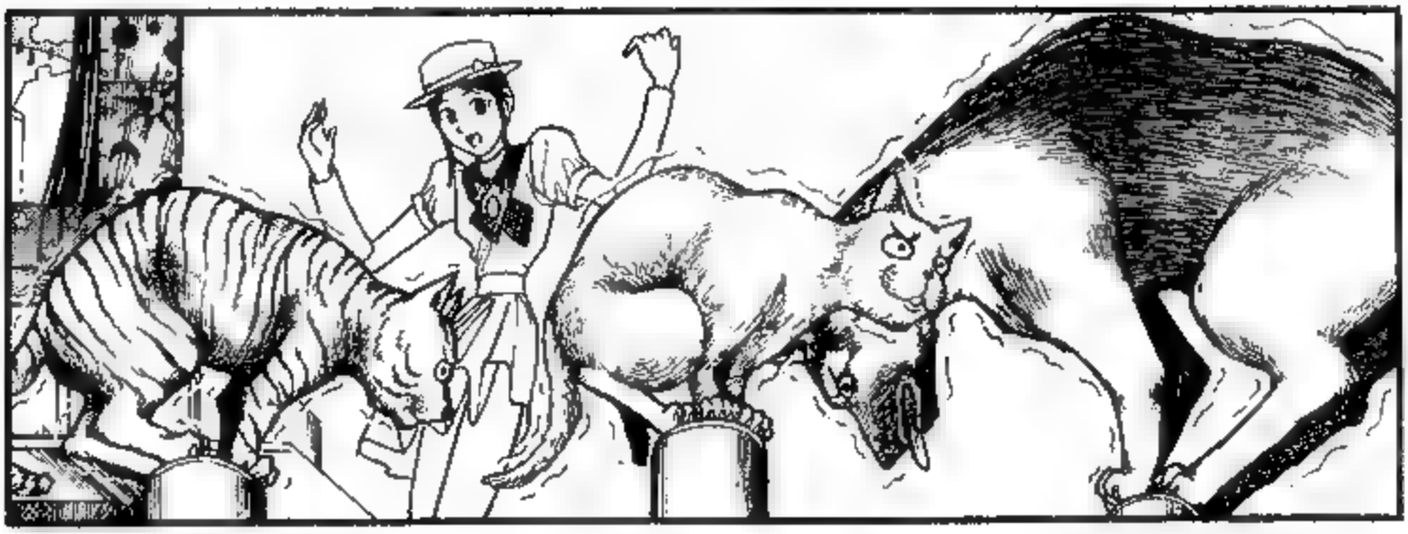
... AND THE ANIMALS ARE FOND OF HER AS WELL!
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE PRINCESS LOVES THE ANIMALS

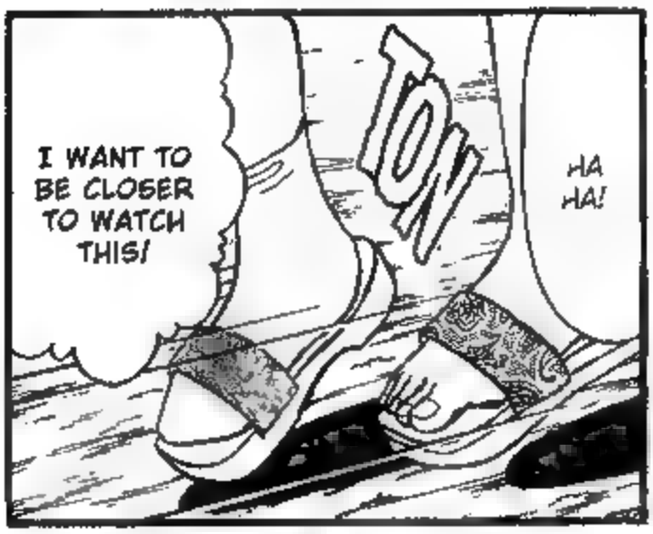

THEY'RE ALL RUNNING TOWARDS THE TRUCK!

SAH


UNBELIEVABLE! NORMALLY, JACK WOULD NEVER GET CLOSE TO ANYONE OUTSIDE MY FAMILY!!

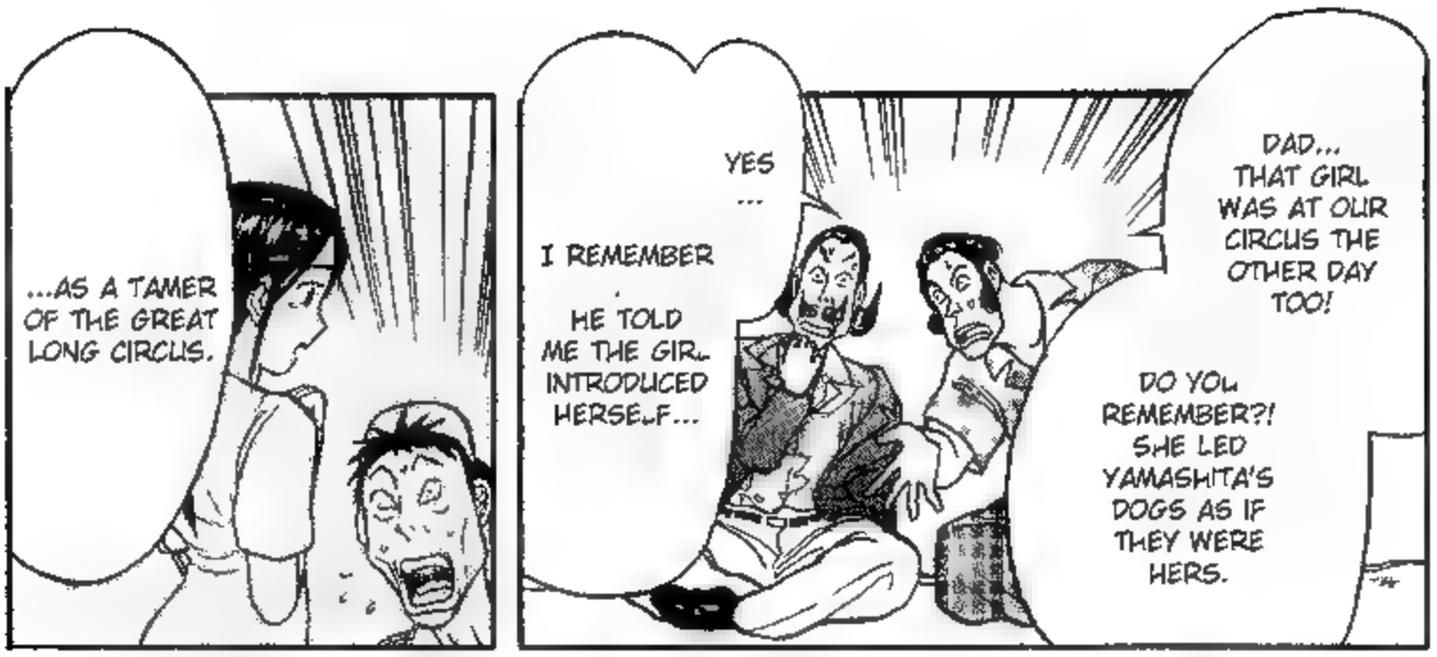

YEAH! SO CUTE!!
WHOAA.. YOU SEE THAT GIRL?!




I WANT TO BE CLOSER TO WATCH THIS!
HA HA!

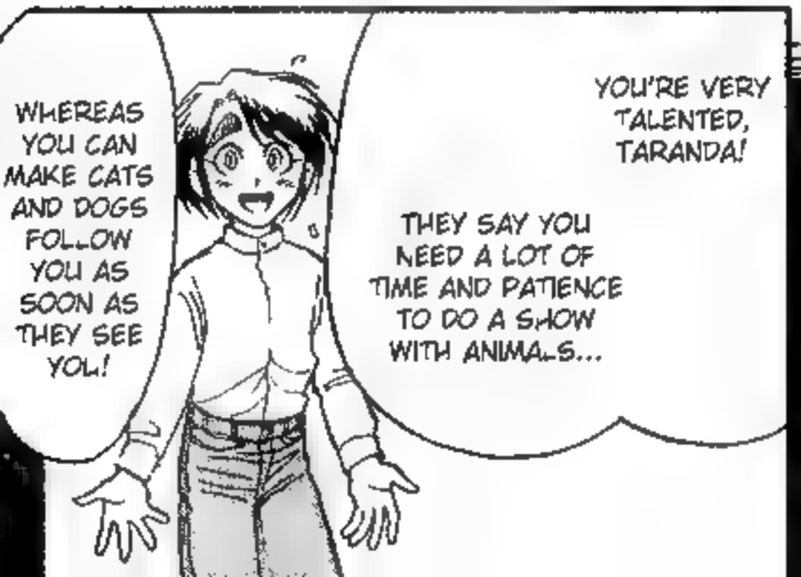
I THOUGHT MY KITTY WOULD ONLY OBEY ME!!
MY GOD! MY CAT CAN DO THAT?!

THEY'VE NEVER BEEN TRAINED... TO DO ANY-THING!
THESE ARE JUST COMMON PETS!
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!


...AS A TAMER OF THE GREAT LONG CIRCUS.
YES ...
I REMEMBER.
HE TOLD ME THE GIRL INTRODUCED HERSELF...
DAD... THAT GIRL WAS AT OUR CIRCUS THE OTHER DAY TOO!
DO YOU REMEMBER?! SHE LED YAMASHITA'S DOGS AS IF THEY WERE HERS.

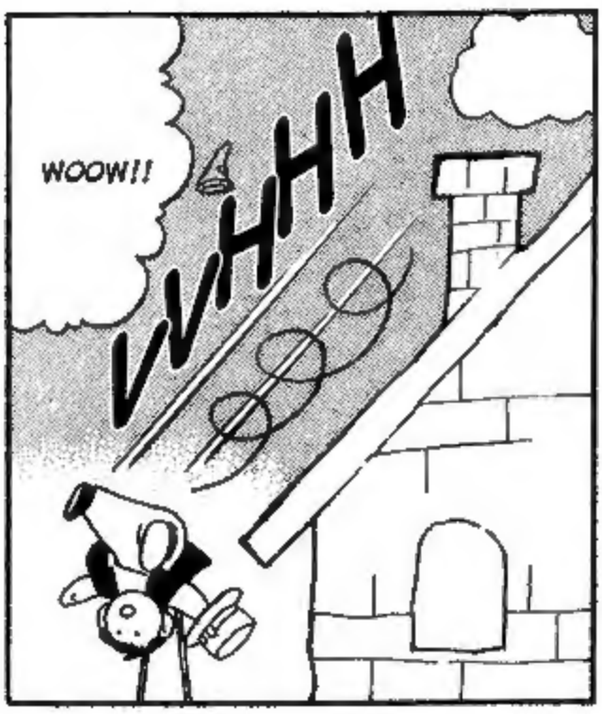
EXACTLY... IF WE MANAGE TO MAKE THESE POOR AMATEURS FAIL, WE'LL GET TWO GREAT ARTISTS FOR OUR CIRCUS INSTEAD OF ONE!!
THEN... IT MEANS...
WHAT?! YOU MEAN THAT GREAT AMERICAN CIRCUS?!

I HOPE MASARU'LL LIKE MY PERFOR-MANCE.

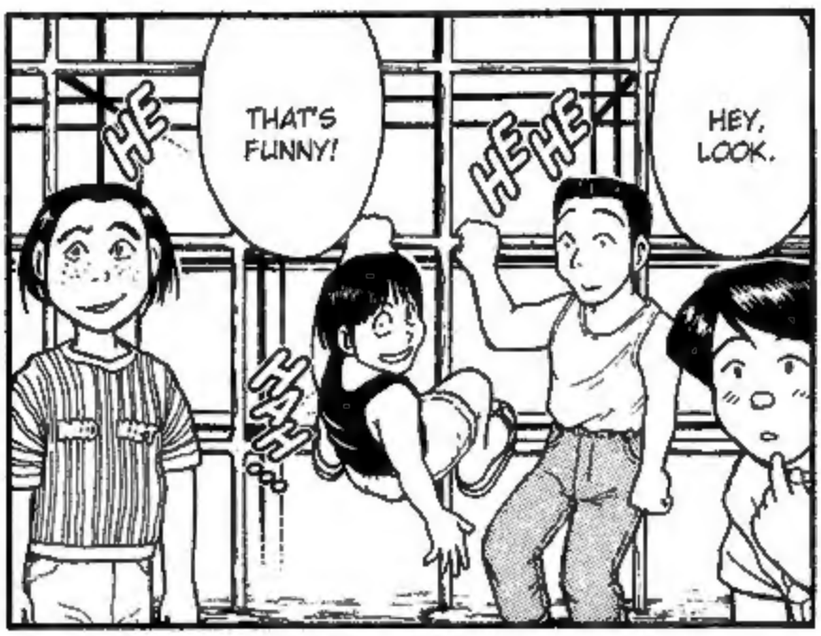

WHEREAS YOU CAN MAKE CATS AND DOGS FOLLOW YOU AS SOON AS THEY SEE YOU!
YOU'RE VERY TALENTED, TARANDA!
THEY SAY YOU NEED A LOT OF TIME AND PATIENCE TO DO A SHOW WITH ANIMALS...

BUT TO JUST MAKE ANIMALS RUN IN A GIVEN DIRECTION, THEY WILL WILLINGLY DO IT JUST BY LOOKING AT MY EYES.
PRACTICE AND LOVE.
THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE A GREAT SHOW!
THE "CHARMING EYES?"
THERE ONCE WAS A MAN WHO TOLD MY MOTHER THAT...
...TO BECOME A GREAT TAMER YOU'D NEED WHAT HE CALLED THE "CHARMING EYES."
I DON'T REALLY KNOW IF I HAVE THAT LOOK, BUT I'VE BEEN RAISED AND TRAINED TO BE A TAMER SINCE I WAS A CHILD...
... THEN, MAYBE ...
IT'S A SPECIAL LOOK IN YOUR EYES THAT INSTANTLY MAKES ANIMALS TRUST YOU...
...AND ALLOWS YOU TO COMMAND THEM SMOOTHLY, THANKS TO AN "ABSOLUTE" CHARISMA.
IT'LL BE PERFECT!
YOU CAN DO IT!
WE NEED YOU TARANDA.
I KNOW YOU HAVE THAT LOOK! THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT!
BEAST, STOP!

I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT...
...BUT I SWEAR, I'LL DO MY BEST, MASARU!
WHAT?!
COME ON, LET'S GET CLOSER!
THAT GIRL'S SO CUTE!
TAN TAN TAN
THE HAT'S HEADING TOWARDS ...
VHHH
HO! LOOKS LIKE A BAD WIND GOT THE PRINCESS' HAT!
...A YOUNG MAN WHO SEEMS TO BE BUSY WORKING!


WOOW!!
VVHHH

HE'S A CHIMNEY SWEEP.
HO!


HE
THAT'S FUNNY!
HEHE
HEY, LOOK.
HAHA

DESPITE ALL THAT, HE'S ALWAYS HAPPY AND LOVES HIS WORK.
BRLOM
HE'S POOR, AND A LITTLE CLUMSY TOO.

WELL, THAT'S WEIRD!

WHAT'S GOING ON? A HAT FELL FROM THE SKY!

THANKS A LOT.
HO! THANK YOU MISTER! YOU GOT MY HAT BACK!
IT'S MASARU!
TON
COME ON, LET'S GO!
I WANNA GO! I'M BORED!
THIS IS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT! THE YOUNG MAN FALLS IN LOVE WITH THE PRINCESS...
FLAP
SUDDENLY, BAD CLOUDS DARKEN THE SKY.
GOOOHH

...WHO'S BEEN TRYING TO SEDUCE THE PRINCESS FOR A LONG TIME?
OUU!!

ZAAN
ZAZAAN
ZOON
ZAZAAN
ARE THESE DARK SIGNS ANOUNCING THE ARRIVAL OF THE SNAKE KING...
SA!

DO YOU SEE THOSE CLOTHES?!
WOAA! HOW CLASSY!
OUU!!

PRINCESS! TODAY, YOU'RE FINALLY GOING TO BE MINE!
THAT'S MY WISH!

YES! WE MUST STOP THEM AT ANY COST!
DAD! IT'S AWFUL!... PEOPLE ARE LIKING IT!